

RESOLUTIONS

H.C.R. 106

Adopted by the House on May 2, 2017: Yeas 136, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 29, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 106

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Texas has been the nation's top exporting state for the last 14 consecutive years, with an estimated \$650 billion in trade in 2015 alone; exports support some 1.6 million jobs and contribute over \$200 billion to the gross state product; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast region of Texas plays a crucial role in the prosperity of the state, as it is home not only to the largest concentration of petrochemical manufacturing and refining facilities in the United States but also to the federal Strategic Petroleum Reserve and a vital supply of aviation jet fuel for military and commercial use; in addition, Texas ports along the Gulf Coast are integral to the chemical manufacturing industry and to both the state and national economies; and

WHEREAS, This Gulf Coast region, however, is vulnerable to major weather events, including intense hurricanes, which in the recent past have devastated area cities by causing significant loss of life, destroying residential and commercial property, damaging sensitive ecosystems, and weakening local economies; and

WHEREAS, In response to the havoc wreaked by Hurricanes Ike and Rita, researchers at the Center for Texas Beaches and Shores at Texas A&M University at Galveston designed the Coastal Spine; plans for implementing the structure have included consideration of scientific research, historical storm data, and existing systems; moreover, the environmental impact such an apparatus would have on the surrounding area and waterway is being vigorously evaluated, and the study is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, composed of Orange, Jefferson, Chambers, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties, was created by Governor Rick Perry in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike; its board, which represents more than 6.5 million residents who live in the upper Gulf Coast area, has determined that the Coastal Spine is the best method for protecting against storm surges along the Texas coast; the concept has also gained widespread support from residents, businesses, and elected officials throughout the coastal region; and

WHEREAS, The General Land Office of the State of Texas is committed to partnering with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the construction of the Coastal Spine; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature is committed to the creation of a special purpose district within the Gulf Coast Region in order to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance of any structures and facilities related to the Coastal Spine; and

WHEREAS, The potential benefits of the Coastal Spine are manifold, ranging from preserving life and property to spurring economic growth and cutting state expenses for disaster assistance, and it is necessary for the U.S. government to provide aid and support for further research, design, and construction of the coastal barrier; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby express its support for the development and construction of a coastal barrier to protect the Gulf Coast region of Texas from storm surges; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the United States Congress to provide sufficient federal funding for the construction of the project; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas Legislature hereby urge the U.S. Congress to expedite the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers design and construction process; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

Deshotel
Perez
Faircloth
Roberts
Cain
Bonnen of Galveston
Wu

Adopted by the House on May 5, 2017: Yeas 144, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 12, 2017.

H.C.R. No. 111

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Fort Hood is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2017, and this is a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the base's significant role in the history of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, In January 1942, only weeks after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Army announced that it was establishing a tank destroyer tactical and firing center near Killeen, and on April 2, 1942, the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion under the command of General Andrew D. Bruce arrived from Fort Meade, Maryland; named after Confederate Army General John Bell Hood, Camp Hood was officially opened on September 18, 1942; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, Camp Hood's mission expanded to include basic training; nearly 100,000 soldiers trained for combat there, and in the later years of the war, approximately 4,000 German prisoners were interned at the camp; in 1950, it was renamed Fort Hood, and permanent buildings began to be constructed; and

WHEREAS, Since 1961, Fort Hood has been home to the U.S. Army III Corps, and its current roster includes the 1st Cavalry Division and 1st Army Division West; units from Fort Hood have deployed to every major conflict since World War II, including Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan, and Iraq; it also supports homeland security as the antiterror training ground for Army Reserve and National Guard units; and

WHEREAS, Today, the "Great Place" has grown from its original 108,000 acres to nearly 218,000 acres across the rolling hills of Central Texas; it serves a population of 400,000, including active duty troops, family members, civilian employees, defense contractors, retirees, and survivors of fallen soldiers, and it generates a statewide economic impact of \$35.4 billion every year; it is the largest active duty armored post in the nation's military, home not only to members of the cavalry and the infantry, but to tanker personnel, engineers, mechanics, health care professionals, and workers in other disciplines; and

WHEREAS, For three-quarters of a century, Fort Hood has played an integral part in the defense of our nation and in the culture and economy of the Lone Star State, and the men and women of Fort Hood may indeed take great pride in their myriad contributions as they celebrate this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby commemorate the